

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Iraq

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Communist Report on Ministry of Defense Meeting

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REFERENCES

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 25X1 1. Agents of the Communist Party of Iraq have reported¹ that Nuri Sa'id, former Prime Minister and present Minister of Defense, held a staff meeting² of Iraq Army general officers about the end of February 1953. The communist report stated that the purpose of the meeting was to allow Nuri to outline what he considered to be "the duty" of the Iraqi Army.
2. The Communist report indicated that Nuri stated that it was the Iraqi Army's responsibility not only to oppose any foreign attack on Iraq and to guard Iraq's borders, but also to undertake responsibility for "the situation" and the internal security of the country, as well as for defense of the Royal Family.³
3. According to the communist report, Nuri then went into a discussion of the present state of martial law in Baghdad. He stated that the existence of martial law is not inconsistent with the principles of democracy, citing as proof of his contention the fact that martial law had been enforced in Turkey for many years.
4. Only two persons applauded when Nuri finished his speech, according to the communist report. The Party feels that the speech "had no influence, even among the higher ranking officers of the Army."

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- 25X1 2. A representative [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED]
25X1 adds, however, that those attending were all officers above the rank of Major who are stationed in Baghdad, including ranking officers of the Ministry of Defense, and all Division and Brigade Commanders.
3. This view may well account for Nuri's decision to become Minister of Defense rather than Prime Minister following the last elections. We interpret the words "responsibility for the situation" as "responsibility for maintenance of the status quo."
- 25X1 4. [REDACTED]
25X1 [REDACTED] From all available information, Nuri has gone about the task of making much needed reforms (improvement of rationing and messing; new issues of garrison and field equipment, etc., with considerable energy and effectiveness. It is probable that his stock has risen with the Iraqi Army officers.

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